

Vision 21 Implementation Committee

Minutes of Meeting August 10, 2005

Accepted 9/15/05

Members present: Austin Bliss, Donna Brescia, Vinny DeNovellis, Victoria Haase, Matt Hausmann, Sara Oaklander, Meg O'Brien, Ann Rittenburg, Paul Santos, Paul Solomon, Jennifer Page

Guest: Delores Keefe

All committee members attended. Each member gave a brief introduction.

Austin Bliss will replace member Matt Hausmann who is moving to Pittsburgh and will be missed. The Vision 21 Implementation Committee wishes Matt well.

The Minutes of the July 20th meeting were approved.

Paul Solomon shared some information about the potential impacts on traffic in Belmont of developments on Belmont's borders in Cambridge and Lexington.

Sara Oaklander spoke briefly about the work of the Belmont Center Planning Committee; Sara represents the Vision Committee in this group.

"Meet Belmont" event volunteers will be contacted about activities by Jennifer Page.

Election of Officers. Jennifer Page provided job descriptions of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the committee. The Chair is responsible for planning and running meetings with the help of others, has overall responsibility for committee activities, serves as liaison to other groups when needed, and holds the center of the Vision. The Vice Chair should have the ability to step into any and all of the Chair's roles.

The sense of the meeting was that the structure of terms and succession should be thought about and discussed prior to an election. Both continuity and flexibility are needed in this committee because half of the members are new to the committee.

Members' comments underlined the importance of continuity in leadership at this time. Jennifer Page expressed an interest in staying as Chair for 6 to 12 months. This would give the committee time to develop a Vice Chair with the expectation that they would succeed as Chair.

Others expressed a desire for continuity of leadership for a longer period. Jennifer Page will be willing to stand for election for one more year. This will give time to identify a candidate for Vice Chair. Or alternatively, the committee can elect a new Chair and have Jennifer serve as Vice Chair for one year. This subject will be taken up at the next meeting.

7. Jennifer Page gave an orientation to the history/process and development of the Vision statement.

It included the following elements:

Jan - June 2000	Process development Committee - looked at how a town can develop a vision. Steps to be taken, not content.
June 2000 - April 2001	Creating a Vision Vision Committee - 40 members with 10 each appointed by each Selectperson and the Town Moderator Steering Committee - 11 member Work Included: focus groups, forums town-wide survey, retreats, drafts
April 2001	"Working Vision" adopted by Town Meeting
May 2001	Charge for Vision Implementation Committee adopted by Selectmen.
June 2001	Implementation Committee appointed with 10 members and one Town planner.
January 2002	VIC recommends five priorities to Board of Selectmen: Education, Environment, Business Community, Welcoming Community, and Regional Planning.

Meeting schedule for the fall:

September 15 and September 29
October 6 and October 20

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret C. O'Brien

Secretary Pro Tem